



December 13, 2005

Lewis Hay, III Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

> Honorable Orrin Hatch United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

We are encouraged by the ongoing discussions we have had with you regarding the future of nuclear power and the contribution that a thriving and growing nuclear industry can make to the economic success of our nation. We at Florida Power & Light Company are working to make the next generation of safe, reliable and emissions-free nuclear power plants a reality and hope that, with your help, we can do just that. Our further conversations regarding options for used fuel storage have been particularly enlightening and have prompted our company to accelerate an internal review of storage strategy.

As you know, nuclear power generators utilize at-reactor storage for used fuel, either in spent fuel pools or dry cask storage, pending construction of a used fuel storage facility at Yucca Mountain. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act, coupled with Congressional action overturning Nevada's veto of the site selection in 2002, obligates the federal government to manage and store used nuclear fuel in such a manner.

Unfortunately, the Department of Energy has missed the statutory deadline for acceptance and storage of used fuel and is behind schedule by a wide and growing margin. Concern about the progress at Yucca Mountain led us and several other electric utilities to explore intermediate fuel storage alternatives, including both at-reactor dry cask storage and away-from-reactor temporary storage, although both alternatives contemplate the U.S. government eventually fulfilling its legal obligation to accept and store the used fuel from the nation's nuclear power plants. The Private Fuel Storage (PFS) project was one option created in response to the industry's concerns.

As we indicated in 2002, it was FPL's intent to limit support of PFS to the licensing phase, which we have done. To provide further support to PFS at this point would require us to conclude either that the Federal Government will not fulfill its absolute obligation under law to receive and store used nuclear fuel or that it is appropriate for FPL to assume responsibility for storing used fuel at away-from-reactor sites. Neither of these conclusions comports with our view of the law or of our proper role as an owner and operator of nuclear power plants. Therefore, after carefully evaluating our goals, FPL has concluded that at this time PFS is no longer in our strategic interest and that for the foreseeable future we will put no further effort into developing that project.

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Our customers have paid millions of dollars (nationwide utility customers have paid billions of dollars) into the Nuclear Waste Fund to finance the storage of used fuel at Yucca Mountain and they deserve a program that works. We share your desire to have the Congress address the shortcomings in the program and will work with you to ensure that they move forward in a way that accommodates the need for intermediate as well as final storage of used nuclear fuel.

Rather than expending resources on PFS, we believe that FPL should focus on supplying our nation with a safe, reliable, low-cost supply of electricity from nuclear generation. We likewise think that Congress should focus on the use and expansion of nuclear energy - an American technology - to address this nation's need for energy independence and security, a clean environment, and stable electricity prices.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to foster good electricity policy to ensure an adequate supply of reliable, emissions-free, safe nuclear power for America.

Sincerely

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